

DUBLIN. 1809
COL. ROCK INSTITUTION

P A P E R S
RELATING TO
V A C C I N A T I O N
IN DUBLIN:

VIZ.

- No. 1.—Annual Report for 1809, of the Directors of the Cow-Pock Institution in Dublin;—
and of the Governors of the Foundling Hospital there.
No. 2.—Resolutions of the College of Surgeons at Dublin, of the 21st March 1811;
respecting the practice of Vaccination in Ireland.
No. 3.—Annual Report for 1810, of the Directors of the Cow-Pock Institution in
Dublin.

No. 1.

Annual Report, for 1809.

COW-POCK INSTITUTION,

Under the Patronage of His Grace The Lord Lieutenant,
N^o 55, Sackville-street;

OPENED on the 14th January 1804, under the direction of the undersigned
Physicians and Surgeons of this city, for the purposes of securing a succession
of Cow-Pock matter; of inoculating gratuitously the children of the poor; and of
supplying the different parts of the kingdom with genuine infection.

DIRECTORS:

PHYSICIANS.
Joseph Clarke,
James Cleghorn,
Thomas Every,

SURGEONS.
George Stewart,
Ralph S. Obré,
Solomon Richards.

An Abstract from the Register of Inoculations and Distribution of Matter.

	Patients Inoculated.	Packets issued to Practitioners in general.	Packets to Army Surgeons.
1804 -	578	776	236
1805 -	1,032	1,124	178
1806 -	1,356	1,340	220
1807 -	2,156	1,790	320
1808 -	3,002	2,285	333
1809 -	3,941	2,540	244
TOTALS - -	12,065	9,855	1,537

The Directors of the Institution have great pleasure in observing the progressive
increase of Vaccine Inoculation, and the influence of experience in satisfying the
239. A public

public of its efficacy. Most of the above 12,065 patients being confined to a city where Small Pox has been in general prevalent, must have been exposed in every possible way to its infection, by living in the same house, or frequently sleeping in the same bed with the infected. The anxiety of parents, too, has often led them intentionally to expose their children to Small Pox infection. As far, however, as the immediate observation of the Institution extends, Cow-Pock has been found to resist all such trials, with three exceptions only.

It now appears by increasing experience, that in a very few instances, the Vaccine Infection will form fairly on the arm, and go through its regular stages, without being absorbed into the blood. The same thing has repeatedly happened in inoculating for the Small Pox, where no eruptive fever or eruption succeeded the Inoculation. In the three cases of Small Pox which have succeeded Vaccination, the disease has been mild, and of short duration.

The efficacy of Cow-Pock, as far as Dublin is concerned, does not rest upon the proofs adduced in its favour by this Institution, for it has been extensively practised during the last five or six years. There are grounds for believing, that the number vaccinated throughout the city, including the above 12,065, does not fall short of 35,000. The cases of Small Pox following Cow-Pock which have been reported, upon any reasonable authority, to the Institution, do not exceed six. No one who is acquainted with the careless and inattentive manner in which many practitioners have hitherto conducted Vaccination, can be surprised to hear of cases of failure. The neglect of parents also to have their children examined at the regular periods after Inoculation, tends to bring the practice into disrepute. To obviate this inconvenience, it has been the practice for some time at this Institution, to oblige parents to deposit a small sum, to be returned after the child has gone through the disease, provided they have attended agreeably to instructions; otherwise the sum is forfeited. This regulation has had the desired effect.

It was reported at an early period of the practice, that Vaccination afforded only a temporary security, which was at first limited to three years. Numerous experiments, tried in different quarters, satisfactorily proved the falsehood of this assertion: a similar opinion has been lately revived, but the period of security extended to five or six years. Neither analogy nor experience justifies such an idea, and the history of casual Cow-Pock fully refutes the allegation; as numerous cases are on record of persons, after having casual Cow-Pock, resisting, during a long life, the Small Pox, under every circumstance of exposure, inoculation, &c. Besides, had the preventive powers of Cow-Pock not been permanent, it is but reasonable to suppose, that many of the above 12,065, must, under the existing circumstances of exposure, have taken the Small Pox. Above twenty children who were vaccinated five or six years ago, have lately, by order of the Directors, been submitted to variolous Inoculation, but without the effect of producing Small Pox. Similar experiments have been instituted under the direction of other practitioners, with the like result. Nineteen children, who had the Cow-Pock eight and nine years ago, have been lately inoculated with Small Pox matter at the Foundling Hospital, under the inspection of Mr. Stewart, Surgeon-General, and Mr. Creighton, Surgeon of the Hospital; but with no other effect than local inflammation. In a letter just received from Mr. Bryce of Edinburgh, he observes, "I have lately finished an experiment of inoculating about twenty children with the Small Pox, who were vaccinated from eight years to five months. The result is most satisfactory, and shews clearly, that a pustule with surrounding inflammation, is as readily produced five months after Vaccination, as at the end of eight years; consequently, that the security is as complete at the latter period, as the former."

The following extract from the Report of the Small Pox Hospital, London, should be recorded.—"Eleven thousand eight hundred patients, and upwards, have been vaccinated, of which number *twenty-five hundred* were afterwards *proved* to be secured from the natural Small Pox, by receiving a further Inoculation with Small Pox matter, which took *no effect*: a number *amply sufficient to satisfy the public mind* of the *security* and *success* of the new practice of Vaccination." December 1802.—So great a number submitted to the test of variolous Inoculation, and exposed in an Hospital full of Small Pox infection, *without effect*, should of itself convince every reasonable mind of the efficacy of Vaccination.—Vide Mr. Charles Murray's answer to Mr. Highmore, p. 37.

A report having been lately circulated that Dr. Jenner himself was beginning to entertain some doubt of the efficacy of his discovery, the Directors thought it expedient

dient to direct their Secretary to write to him, and to lay his answer upon the subject before the Public.

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your obliging letter of the 3^d instant, enclosing the Annual Report of the Cow Pock Institution in Dublin, has just reached me. The former letter you allude to has not yet been delivered. It is with the greatest pleasure I perceive the rapid increase of Vaccination in your Metropolis, and the uninterrupted success that has attended the practice—at once a proof of the zeal, industry, and attention of the Medical Officers, for which I beg leave to make my most grateful acknowledgments.

“ And now, Sir, a few remarks on the very extraordinary communication you have made to me, respecting Lady C.—It has been one of the usual devices of the enemies of Vaccination, almost from the time of my first making it known, to represent me as having lost my confidence of its prophylactic powers, or at least that I was wavering on the subject. Can I, who with the aid of my Nephews, have vaccinated a number of persons little short of 30,000, without one single instance of accident or of failure that ever reached my ears, for a moment entertain such an absurd idea? or could I have ever thought of inoculating for the Small Pox, while I hold that practice in abhorrence, and condemn it both publicly and privately? Believe me, the whole story you relate to me is an entire fiction, without the faintest shadow of foundation. Never, from the commencement of my experiments to the present hour, have I used a particle of the variolous matter, except for the purpose of putting some of those to a test on whom I made my first trials. For some years past I have relied wholly on the Vaccine lymph for testing those on whom any material irregularity appeared in the progress of the pustule.

Berkeley,

February 19, 1809.

“ Believe me, &c.

“ *Edward Jenner.*”

While the Directors, with such weight of evidence in its favour, feel themselves warranted in continuing to recommend Vaccination as a preventive of Small Pox, they cannot but regret, that in a few cases it has been difficult to determine whether a patient has had the disease *constitutionally* or *locally*. They however confidently hope, that by pursuing Mr. Bryce's test, and by increased attention to the progress of the disease, practitioners will be enabled to surmount the only objection to practice, which tends to preserve more than 30,000 lives annually, in the British Isles.

Mr. Bryce proposes that a second Inoculation be performed about the sixth day after the first; the vesicle produced by this second Inoculation is accelerated in its progress so as to arrive at maturity, and again fade at nearly the same time as the affection arising from the first Inoculation. Mr. B. considers the acceleration of the second Inoculation to be the effect of the constitutional affection produced by the first, and therefore, if it shall be found that no such acceleration takes place, but that the second Inoculation proceeds by a slow progress through all the stages, it is to be concluded that no constitutional action has taken place from the first insertion of the virus; and when this is the case, the second Inoculation must be regarded as a primary affection, and a third puncture made, according to the plan laid down for conducting the second Inoculation. And thus (he says) we may go on until the proper test be obtained, or until we be satisfied that the constitution completely resists the action of Cow-Pox.

Although Small Pox is by no means exterminated from Dublin among the poor, yet the general substitution of Vaccine for Variolous Inoculation has considerably diminished the number of patients brought to the Hospitals and Dispensaries for advice. In the upper ranks of society, death from Small Pox is unheard of, and the most extensive practitioners acknowledge, that a case of Small Pox in private practice is a very rare occurrence. And although the re-introduction of Small Pox into society would add greatly to the emoluments both of physic and surgery, there is no liberal man in either profession who would not sincerely deplore such a calamity.

Signed by order,

S. B. Labatt,

Secretary.

January 10, 1810.

Foundling Hospital, Dublin, 4th January 1810.

The following Report having been laid before the Governors of the Foundling Hospital, and appearing to be highly satisfactory—Ordered: That three thousand Copies thereof be printed, for the purpose of their being circulated as generally throughout the United Kingdom as possible.

By Order,

A. Bailey, Register.

As some persons have lately attempted to prejudice the minds of the Public, by representing Vaccine Inoculation as a doubtful security against the Small Pox, limiting its influence to a certain period, and wishing us to believe that its preventive powers diminish in proportion to the distance of time from Inoculation, I have therefore, at the request of the Right Honourable and Honourable the Governors of the Foundling Hospital, instituted such experiments as enable me (a second time) to congratulate the Public on their successful events.

From my situation, as Surgeon to the Foundling Hospital, I have had it fully in my power to select such cases as had been faithfully recorded by me to have undergone Vaccination at the earliest period of Cow-Pock Inoculation in this City, and such have been approved of by those Gentlemen who have honoured me with their presence, to witness and subscribe their names to the progress and event on the following experiment on nineteen children, chosen for the purpose, who were divided into two classes.—The first nine, comprehending those who in a state of infancy were vaccinated by me between the 30th December 1800 and the 3^d July 1801, now more than eight years. These were again inoculated with Small-Pox infection by George Stewart, Esq. Surgeon-General, on the 24th July 1804 (and witnessed by several Gentlemen of the first respectability in their profession), in like manner, to disprove the assertions of Mr. Goldson, as may be seen in the 12th volume of the Medical and Physical Journal, and with the most complete success—all having resisted the Small Pox, although exposed to it in every way possible.—These nine children, with ten others, who were also vaccinated by me in a state of infancy, from 15th July 1801 to 30th of August 1802, upwards of seven years, were again submitted to Small-Pox Inoculation on Friday, 22^d of December last; the infection taken from a child of Mr. Stafford's, N^o 7, Hanbury-lane, in confluent Small Pox, and the matter inserted in two places in the arm of each child, in a fluid state, and in the greatest quantity. In every instance the punctures in the arm of each child, from the third day, inflamed, and continued until the seventh, when the inflammation gradually subsided, as certified by Mr. Stewart, and marked in a table, which in another publication will be more fully expressed;—which circumstance has proved the activity of the Small-Pox matter inserted, and which must have affected the constitution, was it in the least susceptible of the disease. Fourteen days have now elapsed; the inflammation of the punctures is entirely gone, and never was attended with the slightest fever, sickness, or eruption.

In corroboration of the above facts, conducted with every degree of accuracy, and which cannot admit of the smallest doubt on the minds of those Gentlemen who have witnessed them, and hereto subscribed their names, I can safely assert, that I have submitted upwards of Five Hundred Infants and Children, vaccinated by me at this Institution, and at the Dispensary for Infant Poor and Cow-Pock Inoculation, as established in the year 1800, to a like experiment, and with the same result in every instance.

Dublin, Merrion-square West,
January 4th 1810.

J. Creighton.

George Stewart,
Gustavus Hume,
S. Wilmott,
Ralph S. Obré,
A. Colles,
William Hartigan,
Philip Crampton,
Edmund Connell,
Samuel Bell,
William Dillon,
James M^cCreight,

Members of the Royal College of Surgeons
in Ireland.

Apothecaries.

No. 2.

AT a Meeting of the Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, appointed to take into consideration a Letter from the Director of the National Vaccine Establishment, holden on Saturday the 16th February 1811, the following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

1st. Resolved, That it appears to this Committee, from the Reports of Vaccine Establishments in this City, and of other Public Institutions, and from the statements of Practitioners of the most extensive experience, as well as from the practice of the Committee individually, that Vaccination has increased in this country beyond the expectations of its most sanguine supporters; and that no bad effects whatsoever can be justly attributed to it.

2^d. That as far as the Committee have been enabled to ascertain, there is not in this country a regular Practitioner of either physic or surgery who does not highly approve of and adopt the practice of Vaccination; and the Public very generally acknowledge the benefits they derive therefrom.

3^d. That the practice of Inoculation for the Small Pox has obviously decreased, and is now almost solely employed by respectable Practitioners as a test of the prophylactic powers of the Cow-Pox.

4th. From the foregoing Statement the Committee may fairly infer, and from their own experience may with confidence affirm, that the mortality from Small Pox has materially decreased through Ireland since Vaccination was introduced.

(Signed)

Ralph Smith Obré.

John Creighton.

Andrew Johnston.

Confirmed by the College, on

Thursday, March 21st 1811.

C. H. Rowe, Ass^t Sec^y.

No. 3.

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N^o 62, Sackville-street;

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1810 -	4,084	3,249	284
TOTALS - -	16,149	13,104	1,815

The Directors of this Institution have nothing material to add to, or subtract from, their Report of 1809. The addition of *four thousand* cases during the year 1810, tends only to confirm their belief in the efficacy, safety, and policy, of pursuing Vaccine Inoculation.

Some alarming accounts of the failure of Vaccination in the vicinity of Dublin, were propagated during the last year. On a careful investigation, they were found to have originated from falsehood, and ultimately tended, after numerous trials, to confirm the security afforded by Vaccination.

In the last Report, three cases were recorded, in which the Vaccine infection formed fairly on the arm, and appeared to go regularly through its several stages, though the patients were not constitutionally affected. During the year 1810, one failure only of this kind has occurred: there appears no good reason for supposing that contingencies of this nature will be more frequent in Vaccine, than they have been in Variolous Inoculation.

The test proposed by Mr. Bryce, and recommended in the Report of last year, has been practised extensively by the Directors. In a large proportion of cases, it has afforded very satisfactory evidence of constitutional affection: it can hardly be necessary, therefore, to recommend to further notice, a practice calculated to obviate the principal objection to Vaccine Inoculation. Infection for the second Inoculation, which should be performed on the opposite arm, may be always conveniently obtained on the fifth or sixth day, from the vesicle produced by the first insertion of virus.

The Register does not afford a single instance of Cow-Pock exciting in the constitution any new or unheard-of complaint; nor does it appear that children who have had the Cow-Pock, are more subject than others to eruptions on the skin.

The following extract from the Register of Patients at the General Dispensary in London, affords ample proof of this fact.

	Total Number of Diseases.							Number of Chronic Cutaneous Eruptions.		
In the year 1797	-	-	-	1,730	-	-	-	-	-	85
1798	-	-	-	1,664	-	-	-	-	-	82
1804	-	-	-	1,915	-	-	-	-	-	89
1805	-	-	-	1,974	-	-	-	-	-	94

Vide Willan on Vaccine Inoculation.

The most satisfactory accounts of the progress of Vaccination throughout the interior of Ireland, have been received from several Correspondents of the Institution; and the Directors have great pleasure in observing the zeal and disinterestedness of the Country Practitioners, who sacrifice private interest to the public good, in strongly recommending the practice.

The Directors have to acknowledge with gratitude, the privilege of a free and unlimited transmission of letters relating to the Institution, through the Post-Office, which has contributed essentially to extend the benefits of Vaccination throughout this Island.

Signed by Order,

Samuel B. Labatt,
Secretary.

January 1, 1811.



